

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-05 TRSE-00 /053 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI
APPROVED BY S/P:ALAKE
NEA:ADUBS
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
-----031721Z 005034 /43

P R 031537Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: CALL BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR ON POLICY PLANNING CHIEF

SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH ACCOMPANIED BY DCM VENKATESWARAN AND FIRST SECRETARY RAJAN CALLED ON POLICY PLANNING CHIEF LAKE FEBRUARY 28. KUX, NEA/INS, WAS ALSO PRESENT. BOTH SINGH AND LAKE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD SEE A PERIOD OF SMOOTHER RELATIONS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING. AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO TARAPUR NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY AND POSSIBLE U.S. MOVE TO CUT INDIA'S SHARE OF IDA LENDING AS POTENTIAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT GOI HOPED FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION. HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT
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HAD MADE "WONDERFUL GESTURE" IN SENDING HIS MOTHER FOR RECENT AHMED FUNERAL. LAKE SAID THAT USG ALSO HOPED WE COULD AVOID PAST MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND HAVE A BROADER AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD HELP ASSURE THAT INEVITABLE OCCASIONAL DISAGREEMENTS ON SPECIFICS DID NOT ESTABLISH OVERALL TONE OF RELATIONSHIP.

2. LAKE NOTED THAT AT PRESENT NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS STILL AT A STAGE OF SORTING OUT MAJOR GLOBAL ISSUES, EMPHASIZING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SOUGHT POLICIES GENERALLY APPLICA-

BLE IN ORDER TO ASSURE COHERENCE TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY. WITH REGARD TO INDIA, LAKE FELT THAT MANY FACTORS THAT HAD LED TO DIFFERENCES IN THE BIPOLAR PERIOD HAD PASSED AND THAT U.S. AND INDIA NOW FACED TOGETHER A NUMBER OF MAJOR QUESTIONS, MAINLY ECONOMIC. KEWAL SINGH EMPHASIZED THAT INDIAN APPROACH ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES WAS TO SEEK CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS AND AVOID STRIDENCY.

3. AT END OF SESSION AMBASSADOR RAISED NUCLEAR AND AID QUESTIONS. MAKING PITCH FOR APPROVAL OF FUEL LICENSES FOR TARAPUR POWER PLANT, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT INDIA SHARED U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION. IF CTB WERE PUT ON TABLE, INDIA WOULD BE WITH THE U.S., HE STATED. IT HAD DISAGREED WITH THE U.S. WITH REGARD TO THE NPT BECAUSE IN INDIA'S VIEW THIS WAS A DISCRIMINATORY TREATY.

4. LAKE STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN ON NON-PROLIFERATION WAS DEEP. HE COMMENTED THE AMBASSADOR WAS DOUBTLESS AWARE THAT A GENERAL NUCLEAR REVIEW WAS UNDERWAY AND INDICATED THAT AT THIS POINT WE COULD NOT SAY WHERE WE WOULD COME OUT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES SUCH AS TARAPUR.

5. ON AID, THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THE FY 78 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION SHOWED NO FIGURE FOR AID
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FOR INDIA, BUT DIRECTED HIS REMARKS MAINLY TO REPORTS THAT THE U.S. WAS SEEKING A REDUCTION IN INDIA'S SHARE OF IDA LENDING FROM 40 PER CENT. KEWAL SINGH THOUGHT THAT U.S. ACTION IN THIS REGARD WOULD HAVE A VERY BAD IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE STRESSED THAT PEOPLE IN DELHI WOULD WONDER WHY THIS WAS HAPPENING AT A TIME WHEN RELATIONS WERE SUPPOSEDLY IMPROVING. LAKE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT, BUT NOTED THE ADMINISTRATION WAS SEEKING A LARGE INCREASE IN IDA FUNDING AND RECALLED CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF THE LARGE INDIAN SHARE UNDER PRESENT GROUND-RULES.

6. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND LOW KEY. LAKE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN BEFORE KEWAL SINGH RETURNS TO INDIA FOR CONSULTATIONS AT THE END OF MARCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: CALL BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR ON POLICY PLANNING CHIEF SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH ACCOMPANIED BY DCM VENKATESWARAN AND FIRST SECRETARY RAJAN CALLED ON
TAGS: PFOR, IN, (SINGH, KEWAL)
To: NEW DELHI
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